

Fugitives From a Pursuing Past, They Live Hidden Among Us:

The Nazis Next Door

By PAUL MESKIL

(First of a Series)

HUNDREDS of suspected Nazi war criminals have found sanctuary in the United States, secure in the knowledge that there is almost no chance they will be booted back home to stand trial.

During a month-long investigation, The News obtained the names of 123 alleged World War II criminals, all former Nazis or members of pro-Nazi groups, who are now living peacefully and often prosperously in this country.

At least 32 of them are believed to be residing in the metropolitan area. Most haven't even bothered to change their names, although some have been sentenced to death or life imprisonment in their homelands. Among them are former concentration camp commanders and guards, members of SS death squads and officials of Nazi puppet states in eastern Europe. Between them, they are accused of involvement in hundreds of thousands of deaths.

The Immigration and Naturalization Service recently announced that 10 residents of the New York City area are under investigation as a result of war crimes allegations. They are:

Juozas Brazaitis, reported living in Brooklyn; Lew Putala, Yonkers; Sergis Hutyrzyk, New Brunswick, N.J.; Emanuel Jasiuk, Passaic, N.J.; Karl Linnas, Greenlawn, L.I.; Boleslaus Maikovskis, Mineola, L.I.; Simon Ridzenko, Manhattan; Jonas Slepetys, Queens; Tschering Soobzokov, Paterson, N.J.; Joannes Sumyk, New York City. Among the other suspects whose names were given to the News are:

- A Manhattan doctor who allegedly performed medical experiments on concentration camp inmates in Croatia.

- A woman, now living in Manhattan, who served as a prisoner-trustee or kapo in Maidanek death camp, Poland. Maidanek survivors told the News she lashed female inmates with a bull whip and helped the German guards make selections for the gas chambers.

- A Philadelphia man described as a former Ukrainian police chief and Nazi collaborator who sent 14,000 Jews from Rawa-Ruska, near Lwow, to Belzec death camp.

- A Hungarian immigrant, believed living in Texas, who allegedly invented an automatic method of destroying bodies removed from gas chambers.

- A Pennsylvania farmer accused of

direct involvement in 1,592 murders in Kaunas (Kovno), Lithuania.

- A New York commercial artist who allegedly was a Nazi SS officer at Treblinka camp, where an estimated 730,000 people were slaughtered.

- A former Latvian police official who became an instructor in Nazi-run spy schools in Latvia and Germany.

- A West Coast clergyman accused of taking part in the liquidation of Jews.

- Several former Nazi SS and Gestapo stooges now spending their twilight years in New York City and its suburbs.

Except for those under active investigation by the INS, the names of suspects are being withheld because they have not been charged with any crimes in this country. However, all 123 names on The News list will be made available to appropriate agencies.

This list is far from complete. Some people on it may be innocent; others may have died or left the country. No single source has the names of all war crimes suspects now living in America. Persons familiar with the subject—war crimes researchers, professional Nazi hunters, immigration agents, survivors



Boleslaus Maikovskis
From Latvia to Long Island

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The Nazis Next Door

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of Hitler's holocaust—estimate the number of fugitive fascists in the United States at from 500 to several thousand. "No one knows how many of them are here," says Vincent Schiavo, the former Immigration Service attorney who successfully prosecuted Hermine Braunsteiner Ryan. "I would say thousands."

Mrs. Ryan, a Nazi concentration camp guard who became a Queens housewife, was the only war criminal ever extradited by the U.S. to a foreign country. The publicity given her case persuaded the INS to dust off its old files on other suspects—but no further action has been taken against any of them.

One of the first cases to be reopened as a result of the Ryan prosecution was that of Boleslaus Maikovsky, 70, a Long Island carpenter who was sentenced to death in absentia in 1965 by a war crimes tribunal in the Soviet state of Latvia.

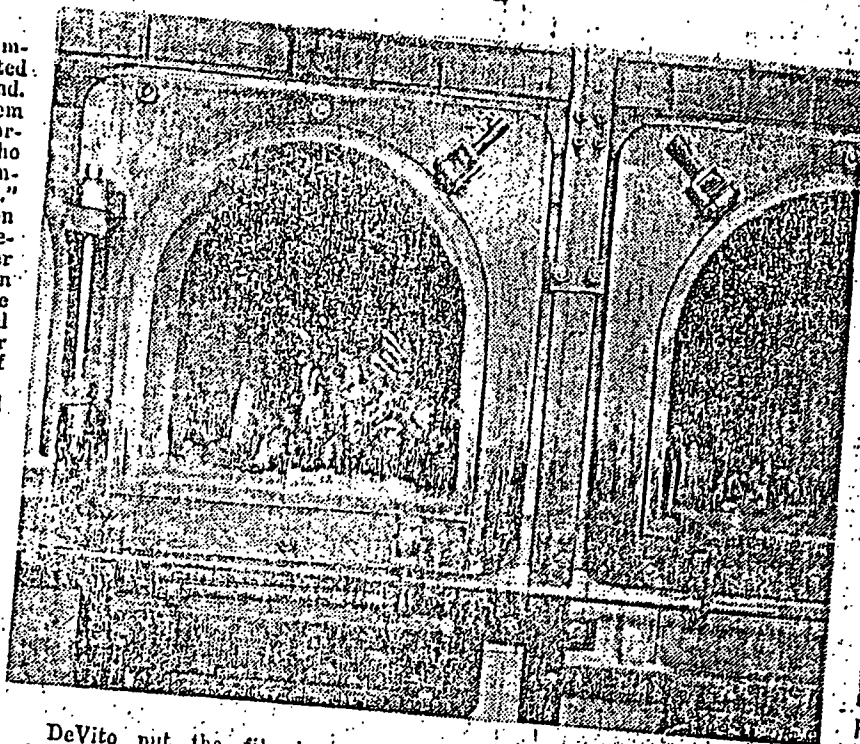
Maikovsky, a former Latvian police official, and his wife came to the United States in 1951 as displaced persons. They eventually bought a home in Mineola, L.I., and lived quietly there until 1965 when the Soviet news agency announced his conviction and sentence for mass murders committed during the German occupation of Latvia in World War II.

The Soviet government requested Maikovsky's extradition in June, 1965. This request was denied, but the INS began investigating Maikovsky's wartime activities. According to present and former immigration agents and other sources, this is what happened:

The investigator assigned to the case, Sidney Fass, prepared a file on Maikovsky and started searching for witnesses and evidence to indicate whether he had made false statements when he applied for admission to the U.S.

Told to Close the Case

Before he could complete his inquiry, Fass received a call from the INS Central Office in Washington. He was ordered to close the Maikovsky case, although he was working on several promising leads. No explanation was given for the Central Office decision.



DeVito put the file in a cabinet of his office on the 14th floor of the New York INS headquarters, 20 W. Broadway. Then, before he had a chance to examine it, he took a leave of absence.

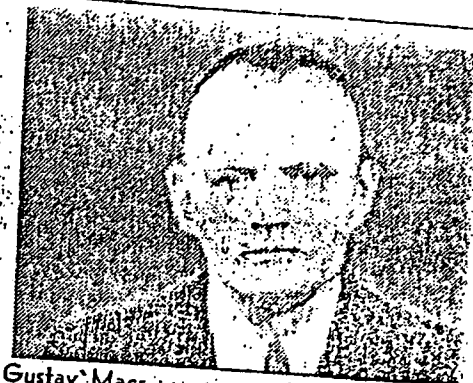
"While I was gone," DeVito said, "the file was removed on orders of Ben Lambert, chief of investigators for the New York office. He kept it for 2½ months. Then U.S. Attorney Robert Morse heard about the case, which was in his jurisdiction, and started asking questions."

Morse mentioned the case to a reporter who asked Sol Marks, then New York district director of the INS, what was being done about Maikovsky. Marks said he had assigned DeVito to conduct a thorough investigation.

"The first I knew I had been assigned to the case officially," DeVito said, "was when I read it in the paper."

"Ultimate solution" of "Jewish problem" was ultimate Nazi horror: ovens at Buchenwald.

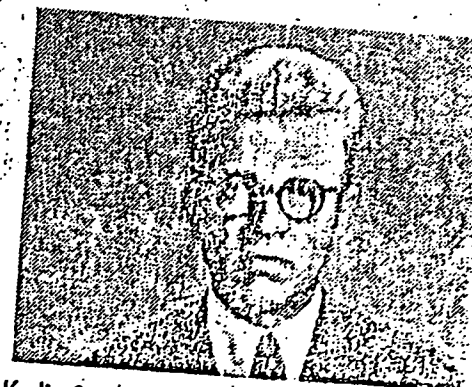
These men, all accused of being Nazi collaborators, are believed to be in this country.



Gustav Macs



Peteris Nesauls



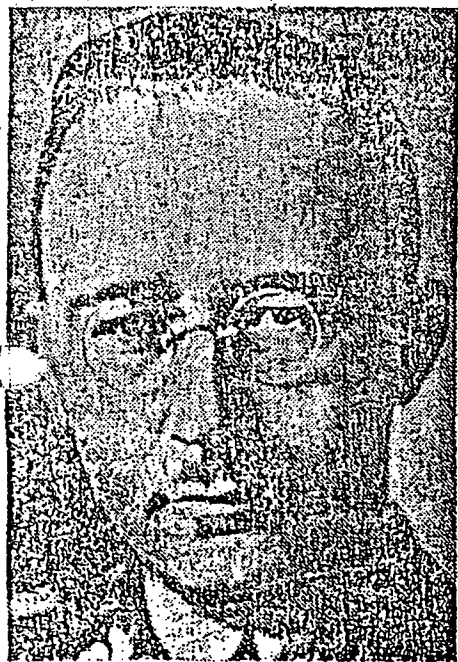
Karlis Sautins

...to the Maikovskis Inc. it said he was terminating the probe "pursuant to instructions" from Wilbur Flagg, assistant commissioner for investigations.

The case, closed in 1966, was reopened 6½ years later by Anthony DeVito, the veteran investigator assigned to the Ryan inquiry. And then the mystery deepened.

"In November 1972, during the Ryan investigation, I got information about Maikovskis," DeVito told The News. "I checked the New York office files (where his record should have been kept) but found no listing for him. Then I checked with Central Office and eventually learned that the Maikovskis file was in the Detroit office of INS. This was very unusual, for Maikovskis had never lived or worked in Detroit.

"INS officials in Detroit told me they didn't know why the file was buried there. They were not even aware that it was in their office. If a Detroit investigator had requested the file in connection with a Midwest phase of the original inquiry, there should have been a record of who asked for it and why. There was no such record in the file when I retrieved it."



Heinrich Himmler was evil genius of Hitler regime, headed dread SS and oversaw concentration camps.

Fuss. He immediately noticed that the document he had placed there, saying the case had been closed by the central office, was missing."

In May, 1973, less than two months after he was assigned to the Maikovskis case, DeVito was suddenly transferred to the subversive section of INS and given such a heavy caseload that he was unable to continue the investigation.

Frustrated and disillusioned, he resigned after 22 years as a federal investigator.

Says Probe Was Blocked

"There was strong resistance at the INS top command in the Ryan case," DeVito charged during two long interviews. "But there was outright blockage of the Maikovskis investigation. My superiors made certain that I could not possibly proceed with the inquiry."

The Maikovskis case has not been closed again, however. It is being kept alive by such interested parties as the Survivors of the Riga Ghetto, whose New York members recently demonstrated outside the neat, tree-shaded Maikovskis home at 232 Grant St., Mineola.

Documents in his INS file indicate Maikovskis graduated from a Nazi-run police training school and became chief of the 2d Police Precinct, Rezekne, Latvia. In this capacity, he allegedly sent a memo to the vice-prosecutor of Daugavpils Regional Court on Jan. 9, 1942. It said: "On the 2d of January, the village was burned to the ground and the inhabitants all shot, of these 30 were publicly shot in the Rezekne marketplace."

Witnesses interviewed by INS investigators and The News have accused Maikovskis and two of his Latvian colleagues of responsibility for some 15,000 deaths, including all 196 residents of Audrini village, which was completely destroyed.

Maikovskis has been active in Latvian-American groups and served as an alternate delegate to the Assembly of Captive European Nations. Since the Riga survivors picketed his home, however, he has been staying out of sight.

On a sunny Sunday morning two weeks ago, a car stopped at the entrance to his driveway. A reporter got out and saw Maikovskis standing in front of the garage at the rear of his house. As the newsman approached, Maikovskis scurried into the house. His wife finally answered the front doorbell and said he wasn't there.

Asked about the charges of the Riga

her husband's past, referring all questions to his lawyer.

The INS file on Maikovskis contains this comment from DeVito: "When weighing subject's possible complicity in the war crimes allegations, it must be frankly stated that the evidence against him thus far is most persuasive. Given a free hand, I feel confident an abundance will be assembled to show a degree of guilt exceeding that of . . . Hermine Braunsteiner Ryan."

The Maikovskis case was among those mentioned by Rep. Elizabeth Holtzman (D-Brooklyn) when she charged recently that the INS had "failed to initiate proceedings against any reported war criminals" and "had not interviewed a single witness" since the Ryan probe.

uals who comprise our current Nazi War Criminals list."

These 37 names are included in The News list of 123 suspects. Since the INS list was released last month, the Immigration Service has added about 15 more suspects.

The INS list includes such well-known names as Andrija Artukovic, former interior minister of Croatia; Bishop Valerian Trifa, head of the Romanian Orthodox Episcopate of America; a Roman Catholic Bishop Vincentas Brizgis of Chicago. Three Protestant clergymen from Latvia also appear on the list.

(Tomorrow: Suspects in suburbia)

The Immigration and Naturalization Service has released the names of 37 individuals who comprise our current Nazi War Criminals list. They are:

LIVING IN METROPOLITAN AREA

Juozas Brazaitis, New York
Law Fulala, Westchester
Sergis Hutyrzyk, New Jersey
Emanuel Jasuk, New Jersey
Karl Linnaas, Long Island

Boleslaus Maikovskis, Long Island
Simon Ridezenko, New York
Jonas Slepetyk, New York
Tscherim Soobzokov, New Jersey
Joannes Sumyk, New York

FILES IN NEW YORK INS OFFICE

Andrija Artukovic
Vincentas Brizgys
Janis Ernsts
Peteris Nesaule

Kazys Paiciauskas
Karlis Sautins
Hubert Strughold
Viarel Trifa

INS FILES IN OTHER CITIES

Antanas Bernotas, Hartford
Daniel Bobrow, Los Angeles
Antanas Burkunas, Buffalo
Laszlo Hevesi, Houston
Juozas Jurksaitis, Chicago
Mikolaj Kowalczyk, Philadelphia
Serhij Kowalczyk, Philadelphia
Edgars Laipenicks, San Diego
Romualdas Levickas, Chicago

Edmund Macs, Seattle
Valeras Maskoliunas, Pittsburgh
Aleksas Maskoliunas, Los Angeles
Vladimir Ostadach, Philadelphia
Meis Pashkivicius, Los Angeles
Alexander Ris, Miami
Michal Szumski, Buffalo
Jaroslaw Teterowicz, Los Angeles
Antanas Virkutis, Chicago
Petras Zilionis, Boston